



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

Angela Faherty, PH.D
ACTING COMMISSIONER

Exhibit VII.C.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Angela Faherty, Ph.D., Acting Commissioner

DATE: August 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Certification and Higher Education Committee Action Plan Developed in Response to the Report of the Professional Standards Board.

BACKGROUND: The Professional Standards Board was established in Maine statute Title 20-A, Chapter 502-B "to advise the state board regarding professional growth, certification, endorsement, authorization and governance of the education profession in this State."

By law, "the board shall submit a report by June 30 of each year to the commissioner and the State Board with its recommendations." After that "the state board shall act on standards definitions or other recommendations within 60 days of presentation to the state board by the board." As required, the board met and prepared its report which was considered by the State Board of Education on July 14, 2010. At the July 14, 2010, meeting the State Board of Education voted unanimously to receive the June 30, 2010 Report of the Professional Standards Board and refer the Report to the Certification and Higher Education Committee for consideration of the recommendations and creation of an action plan to be presented to the State Board of Education at its August 2010 meeting.

The Certification and Higher Education Committee reviewed the recommendations and developed the following proposed action plan:

1. A candidate who holds both a valid teaching certification from another state and national board certification be granted an initial Maine teaching certificate in that same certification area, pending fingerprint: Department of Education staff will contact Ellen Holmes to discuss the fact that National Board categories and State of Maine certification in elementary education do not match. There would need to be some kind of "cross walk" between what the PRAXIS covers and what the National Board covers. This may necessitate the convening of a group to review all of the ramifications of this proposed action.
2. National Board Certification or Re-Certification will be sufficient to fulfill the requirements for the subsequent 5-year professional teacher certification or re-certification: This request appears to be based on LEA certification teams that will not accept the work done for National Board certification as part of the teacher's re-certification credits. The Committee decided that it needed clarification to make sure that this was not meant to include a ten-year period without any other professional development.

ACTING COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION: The Acting Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education approve the action plan as presented by the Certification and Higher Education Committee.